



**MWD**

**METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Executive Office

August 7, 2003

Mr. Tom Carter, Power Operations Manager  
Western Area Power Administration  
Sierra Nevada Region  
114 Parkshore Drive  
Folsom, CA. 95630-4710



Dear Mr. Carter:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is pleased to submit these comments to the Western Area Power Administration (Western) in response to Western's June 24, 2003 Federal Register notice (58 FR 37484) regarding Operational Alternatives for Post 2004 Operations.

Metropolitan provides about half of the water used by the almost 18 million people in urban Southern California. This water supply comes from the Colorado River and the Bay/Delta in Northern California. Our water deliveries from sources in Northern California are made via the State Water Project, which has both joint and adjacent facilities with Central Valley Project water and power facilities. Power is a vital ingredient to delivering water reliably and at reasonable rates to our member agencies and their customers.

Metropolitan supports Western's efforts to prudently examine its Post-2004 Operational Alternatives. We believe Western's examination of alternatives that can provide reliable, durable, and cost effective power resources to deliver water is in the best interests of California's water and power users.

We appreciate Western's efforts to conduct an open and public process as it makes these important operational decisions and look forward to an opportunity to explore with Western ways to assist each other in meeting the needs of our respective customers.

Very truly yours,

Ronald R. Gastelum  
Chief Executive Officer

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